

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 4, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response extended three months set to expire on March 4, 2010. Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed herein.

Specification

The Examiner indicated that the title of the invention is not descriptive and a new title is required. In response, Applicant has amended the title accordingly.

The Examiner also objected to the specification due to informalities. In response, Applicant has amended the specification accordingly. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the objection to the specification be removed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

The Examiner objected to claims 1-10 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that several claims included terms that were unclear and/or lacked antecedent basis. In response, Applicant has amended the claims accordingly. The basis for the amendments and/or the terms are found on page 6, lines 23-26 and other places in the English PCT text for the wording "the hydrate", on page 6 lines 31-33 and other places in the English PCT text for the wording "the contaminants", on page 7, lines 30-32 and other places in the English PCT text for the wording "the harvested hydrates", on page 8, lines 7-11 and other places in the English PCT text for the wording "the hydrated particles", and on page 8, lines 13-15 and other places in the English PCT text for the wording "the hydrate harvesting process".

The Examiner also indicated that claim 1 is considered incomplete because hydrate grains or hydrate particles are to be recycled with the mixture of hydrate and contaminated water to cause spontaneous hydrate formation in the first container. In response, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner to the limitations in claim 1 that recite "wherein at least a portion of the mixture of hydrate and contaminated water is

recycled to said first container via a third pipe as hydrate-forming seed, and the rest is passed to a separator where the mixture is separated into contaminated water and a hydrate, the hydrate is passed to a second container via a fourth pipe, in said second container the temperature is raised so that the hydrate dissociates into pure water and hydrate-forming compound, the hydrate-forming compound from said second container is passed back to the first container for hydrate formation via said second pipe and the pure water is taken out as a product.” These limitations in claim 1 relate the recycled hydrate grains or hydrate particles as mentioned by the Examiner, and therefore Applicant believes that claim 1 is complete. Further, the Examiner indicates that if claims 1-10 were properly written to overcome the § 112 rejections, they would be allowable.

As the foregoing illustrates, Applicant has addressed the § 112 rejections set forth in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the § 112 rejection of claims 1-10 be removed and allowance of the same. Additionally, the new dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1-10.

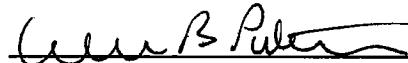
Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested that an English equivalent of NO 311,854 be submitted. In response, Applicant is submitting concurrently with this response a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement that includes US 6,774,276 which is the English equivalent of NO 311,854.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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